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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/603,272	06/25/2003	Michael P. Hanratty	94350.00008	4463

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EXAMINER

GANEY, STEVEN J

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3752

DATE MAILED: 12/15/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/603,272

Applicant(s)

HANRATTY, MICHAEL P.

Examiner

Steven J. Ganey

Art Unit

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 02 May 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-34 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 6, 7 and 15-34 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4, 8-11, 13 and 14 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 5 and 12 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- ☐ Other: _____

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DETAILED ACTION

Note this is a supplemental detailed Office action, after further discovery, not all of the elected claims were included in the last Office action. The shortened statutory period for reply has been restarted from the mailing date of this communication.

Election/Restrictions

1. Claims 6, 7 and 15-34 are withdrawn from further consideration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.142(b) as being drawn to a nonelected invention and species, there being no allowable generic or linking claim. Election was made **without** traverse in the reply filed on May 2, 2005.
2. Applicant's election without traverse of Group I, Species I, claims 1-5 and 8-14 in the reply filed on May 2, 2005 is acknowledged.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

4. Claims 1 and 2 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Flanagan et al.

Flanagan et al discloses a foaming apparatus comprising a diffuser unit 72/75; a housing 40; a first conduit 66; a second conduit 42/53; and an outlet 50.

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5. Claims 1-4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Gieseemann.

Gieseemann discloses an apparatus for generating foam comprising a diffuser unit 23; a housing 13/17/22; a first conduit 12; a second conduit 10; and an outlet, see Fig. 1.

With respect to applicant's statements of intended use, i.e. (for supplying a water and foam mixture and for expelling an aerated water and foam mixture), the device of Gieseemann is capable of performing applicant's intended use, therefore, the claims are fully anticipated.

As to claim 3, note col.3, lines 73 and 74.

6. Claims 1-4 and 8-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Webster.

Webster discloses an apparatus for generating foam comprising a diffuser unit 78/84; a housing 80; a first conduit 64/70; a second conduit 60; and an outlet at end of E, see Fig. 7-10.

7. Claims 1-4, 8-11 and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Edwards et al.

Edwards et al discloses an apparatus for generating foam comprising a diffuser unit 20/21/22; a housing 19; a first conduit 15; a second conduit 16; valve 15' and an outlet at 25, see Fig. 1-3.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

8. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

9. Claim 13 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Edwards et al.

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Edwards et al discloses all the featured elements of the instant invention except for a pressure gauge associated with at least one of the first conduit and the second conduit. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide a pressure gauge associated with the second conduit of Edwards et al, since Edwards et al discloses that the water/foam mixture is delivered under pressure, therefore, such a pressure gauge would normally be installed to monitor the supply pressure being provided through the second conduit.

Allowable Subject Matter

10. Claim 5 and 12 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Conclusion

11. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Justice shows an apparatus with a conical diffuser. Anthony Jr. and Gagliardo show foam generating apparatuses with diffusers. Wiedorn, Boerner and Bruensicke show various types of foam generating nozzles.

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12. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Steven J. Ganey whose telephone number is (571) 272-4899.

The examiner can normally be reached on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 8:00 AM to 5:30 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Dave Scherbel, can be reached on (571) 272-4919. The fax phone number for this Group is (571) 273-8300.

sjg

10/06/05


STEVEN J. GANEY
PRIMARY EXAMINER
10/6/05